



# Montana Drought Advisory Committee

**USDA NASS  
Montana Field Office  
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Director**

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# Winter Wheat

**Planting is virtually complete**

**A little over half of winter  
wheat has germinated  
slightly behind last year**

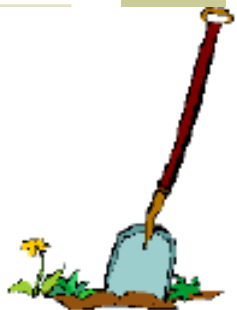
**Recent precipitation gave  
winter wheat a needed boost**





# Topsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Month, Last Year & 5-Yr Average

October 15, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short – short	23%	53%	40%	67%
Adequate	71%	44%	57%	32%
Surplus	6%	3%	3%	1%



# Subsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Month, Last Year & 5-Yr Average

October 15, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	63%	79%	66%	81%
Adequate	36%	20%	33%	19%
Surplus	1%	1%	1%	0%

# Winter Wheat Seeded and Emerged

October 15, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
<b>Winter wheat</b> seeded	92%	93%	95%
emerged	51%	56%	60%

# Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range condition a little worse than last year but better than 5-year average
- ◆ Ranchers have begun supplemental feeding of livestock



# Range & Pasture Condition

## Worse than Last Year but Better than 5-Yr Average

October 15, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor - poor	39%	48%	28%	54%
Fair	40%	37%	42%	30%
Good	17%	12%	27%	14%
Excellent	4%	3%	3%	2%



# Livestock Movement From Summer Ranges Ahead of Last Year

October 15, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Cattle	66%	58%	63%
Sheep	61%	59%	66%





# To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter wheat received good moisture to get off to an excellent start
- ◆ Pasture & range feed condition behind last year
- ◆ Need mountain snows to fill the reservoirs and rivers next spring
- ◆ Conditions have improved from last month

Recent Rains have improved conditions  
across Montana, need more!

